

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate having a bending stiffness for packaging of liquid foods and drinks by a high speed, continuous process, comprising:

outside layers of heat-sealable olefin polymer;

a first gas barrier coated carrier layer including a first gas barrier layer consisting of PECVD SiO<sub>x</sub> coated onto a first polymer carrier layer, where x is from 1.7 to 2.0;

a second gas barrier coated carrier layer including a second gas barrier layer consisting of PECVD SiO<sub>x</sub> coated onto a second polymer carrier layer, where x is from 1.7 to 2.0; and

an intermediate polymer layer laminated between the first and second gas barrier coated carrier layers, the intermediate polymer layer having a higher thickness relative to each of the first and second gas barrier coated carrier layers, and a higher stiffness relative to low density polyethylene,

wherein a stiffness of each of the first and second polymer carrier layers interacts with the stiffness and the higher thickness of the intermediate polymer layer by an I-beam or sandwich effect to provide the bending stiffness,

wherein a thickness of the intermediate polymer layer is from 40 to 60 µm, a thickness of each of the first polymer carrier layer and the second polymer carrier layer is

from 8 to 15  $\mu\text{m}$ , a thickness of the outside layers of heat-sealable olefin polymer is from 10 to 25  $\mu\text{m}$  and from 18 to 30  $\mu\text{m}$ , respectively, and a total thickness of the packaging laminate is from 110 to 140  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the intermediate polymer layer constitutes from 30 to 55% of a total thickness of the packaging laminate.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of one of the first polymer carrier layer and the second polymer carrier layer constitutes from 5 to 20% of a total thickness of the packaging laminate.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 1, wherein the first or second polymer carrier layer is a film of oriented polyester or polyamide.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 4, wherein the oriented polyester or polyamide is selected from mono- or biaxially oriented polyethyleneterephthalate (PET), mono- or biaxially oriented polyethylenenaphthalate (PEN) and mono- or biaxially oriented polyamide (PA).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate polymer layer is a polymer selected from high density polyethylene or polypropylene.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate polymer layer is an ~~olefine~~ olefin polymer and the first and second polymer carrier layer is an oriented polyester or polyamide.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 1, wherein the PECVD SiO<sub>x</sub> gas barrier layers of the first and second gas barrier coated carrier layers are positioned in the laminate such that they are facing towards each other.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 1, wherein the PECVD SiO<sub>x</sub>-layer has a thickness of 50 to 500.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of each of the first polymer carrier layer and the second polymer carrier layer is from 7 to 30 µm.

Claim 11 (Original): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 1, wherein the first polymer carrier layer and the second polymer carrier layer have the same thickness.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of the intermediate polymer layer is from 40 to 80  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 1, wherein a total thickness of the packaging laminate is from 100 to 180  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 14 (Canceled)

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 14, wherein the thickness of the intermediate polymer layer is from 40 to 50  $\mu\text{m}$  and the thickness of each of the first polymer carrier layer and the second polymer carrier layer is from 12 to 15  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 14, wherein the thickness of the intermediate polymer layer is from 50 to 60  $\mu\text{m}$  and the thickness of each of the first polymer carrier layer and the second polymer carrier layer is from 8 to 12  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 8, wherein the intermediate polymer layer is laminated to the layers of PECVD SiO<sub>x</sub> by means of a binder layer.

Claim 18 (Original): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 17, wherein the binder layer comprises a graft copolymer of alkoxy silane and polyethylene.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): Packaging container manufactured from a packaging material comprising a packaging laminate according to claim 1.

Claims 20-28 (Canceled)

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 2, wherein the thickness of the intermediate polymer layer constitutes from 35 to 50% of the total thickness of the packaging laminate.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 3, wherein the thickness of one of the first polymer carrier layer and the second polymer carrier layer constitutes from 5 to 15% of the total thickness of the packaging laminate.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 9, wherein the thickness is 80 to 300 Å.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 10, wherein the thickness of each of the first polymer carrier layer and the second polymer carrier layer is from 8 to 20 µm.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 32, wherein the thickness of each of the first polymer carrier layer and the second polymer carrier layer is from 8 to 15  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 12, wherein the thickness of the intermediate polymer layer is from 40 to 60  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 34, wherein the thickness of the intermediate polymer layer is from 40 to 55  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): Transparent gas barrier packaging laminate according to claim 13, wherein the total thickness of the packaging laminate is from 110 to 140  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claims 37-39 (Canceled)